

Message Text

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FM AMCONSUL CASABLANCA

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 3172

INFO AMEMBASSY PARIS

AMEMBASSY RABAT

AMCONSUL TANGIER

C O N F I D E N T I A L CASABLANCA 1042

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: PINT, ELAB, MO

SUBJECT: UNFP HOLDS THIRD NATIONAL CONGRESS

1. SUMMARY: UNFP, NOW MINUS "RABAT FACTION", CONCLUDED FIRST NATIONAL CONGRESS IN TWELVE YEARS IN CASABLANCA DECEMBER 1. IN LENGTHY REPORT TO CONGRESS, ABDALLAH IBRAHIM SEVERELY CRITICIZED UNSATISFACTORY DISTRIBUTION OF WEALTH IN MOROCCO AND CALLED FOR LAND REFORM, EXTENSIVE NATIONAL-IZATIONS AND CREATION OF HEAVY INDUSTRY. REORGANIZATION OF PARTY MACHINERY CONCENTRATES POWER IN HANDS OF IBRAHIM AND UMT SECGEN BEN SEDDIK. IN SPITE OF HINTS BY IBRAHIM THAT UNFP WILL NOT PARTICIPATE IN 1975 PARLIAMENTARY ELECTIONS, FINAL DECISION HAS NOT YET BEEN MADE. UNFP AS NOW CONSTITUTED HAS LITTLE SUPPORT BEYOND RANKS OF UMT. END SUMMARY.

2. UNION NATIONALE DES FORCES POPULAIRES (UNFP), NOW MINUS "RABAT FACTION", HELD FIRST NATIONAL CONGRESS IN TWELVE YEARS NOVEMBER 30 - DECEMBER 1. OPENING SESSION (ATTENDED BY ARAB, COMMUNIST BLOC AND U.S. DIPLOMATS) FEATURED READING OF LENGTHY REPORT BY ABDALLAH IBRAHIM. REPORT, CLEAREST STATEMENT OF PARTY POLICY IN SEVERAL YEARS, STATED PRINCIPLE OF SEPARATION OF PARTY AND UNION
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MAROCAINE DU TRAVAIL (UMT) AND CALLED FOR BUILDING OF

WELL ORGANIZED PARTY RATHER THAN A MASS MOVEMENT. IBRAHIM SEVERELY CRITICIZED CURRENT SOCIAL AND ECONOMIC SITUATION, EMPHASIZING UNSATISFACTORY DISTRIBUTION OF NATION'S WEALTH. ENUNCIATING PARTY PROGRAM, HE CALLED FOR LAND REFORM, EXTENSIVE NATIONALIZATIONS AND DEVELOPMENT OF HEAVY INDUSTRY. MASSES WOULD PARTICIPATE IN ELECTIONS, IBRAHIM SAID, ONLY AFTER CREATION OF REFORM GOVERNMENT TO REMAIN IN POWER FOR TWO YEARS, REVISION OF ELECTORAL LISTS AND RESTORATION POLITICAL LIBERTIES.

3. ENSUING SESSIONS PRIMARILY DEVOTED TO ORGANIZATIONAL MATTERS. ABDALLAH IBRAHIM UNANIMOUSLY ELECTED TO NEWLY CREATED POST OF SECRETARY GENERAL, WHICH DESIGNED TO GIVE HIM INCREASED AUTHORITY AND CONTROL. NEWLY ELECTED 51 MEMBER NATIONAL COMMISSION HEAVILY LARDED WITH MEMBERS UMT AND IBRAHIM FAMILY. RESULT OF REORGANIZATION IS TO GIVE IBRAHIM AND UMT SEC GEN MAHJOUB BEN SEDDIK TOTAL CONTROL PARTY APPARATUS.

4. GOAL OF CONGRESS WAS TO REVIVIFY MORIBUND UNFP, WHICH HAS LITTLE SUPPORT BEYOND THAT OF BEN SEDDIK (WHO PRESIDED OVER CONGRESS) AND HIS UNION MAROCAINE DU TRAVAIL. IN SPITE OF IBRAHIM'S COMMENTS ABOUT ELECTIONS, UNFP HAS IN FACT NOT DECIDED WHETHER OR NOT PARTICIPATE IN PARLIAMENTARY ELECTIONS EXPECTED NEXT YEAR. HE AND UNFP WILL HAVE GREAT DIFFICULTY IN DEVELOPING SUBSTANTIAL ELECTORAL SUPPORT OTHER THAN OF UMT.

5. AIRGRAM FOLLOWS.
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